

Deacom Albert Bailey, Sr., was presented with the Outstanding Christian Community Leadership Award. Deacon Bailey has actively served his community through a number of activities for the past 40 years through the Little League Program, the Chicago Public Schools system, and as a Sunday school teacher.

Mr. Roderic Pierce, Sr., received the Outstanding Community Businessman Award. He is a lifelong resident of Englewood, and has provided job opportunities within the community through his business establishments.

Ms. Sybil Hunley is the recipient of the Julia Broy Educator Award. Ms. Hunley is a teacher in the Chicago Public School System and has taught three generations of students over the past 37 years.

Ms. Patricia Ann Hill was awarded the Adult Education Achievement Award. As a single parent who returned to school and earned a bachelor of arts degree from Chicago State University in 1987, Ms. Hill is an inspiration to other students who may be struggling with their decision to return to school.

The Appreciation Award for Outstanding Service to Block Club was presented to Mrs. Eva Graves. Mrs. Graves served as vice president of the Block Club for 35 years, and is a founding member.

Mr. Speaker, we are all fortunate that dedicated individuals such as these, are part of our communities today. I wish each of them and the entire Englewood Block Club organization continued success in the future.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BOB CLEMENT

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 21, 1997

Mr. CLEMENT. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall vote No. 513, I was unavoidably detained on official business. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay", and I ask unanimous consent that this statement be placed in the appropriate portion of the RECORD.

TRIBUTE TO RAYMOND R. KIMBLE

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 21, 1997

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call to your attention Raymond R. Kimble, the township manager and director of public safety for the Township of Belleville, NJ as he was honored on Thursday, October 16, 1997, for 33 years of outstanding public service.

Ray was born and raised in the township of Belleville, attended the public schools and was a star athlete on the Belleville High School football team. He graduated from William Paterson College with a B.S. in public administration and a master's degree in urban and community affairs.

Ray served his Nation proudly in the U.S. Army from November 1958 to October 1960 and began his service to the Belleville police department on February 16, 1964 when he received his initial appointment. Ray was promoted to the rank of sergeant in 1967, lieutenant in 1973, captain in 1981, deputy chief in

1986, and eventually to the rank of chief of police on April 1, 1992. Throughout his career as a police officer, Ray either served or supervised the police department's patrol division, detective bureau, records and identification bureau, internal affairs division and crime prevention unit. He has been recognized numerous times for actions above and beyond the call of duty, including the April 1970 apprehension of a suspect wanted for murder in Belleville, the June 1970 rescue of a woman submerged under water in her car after a motor vehicle accident, and the June 1977 apprehension of a suspect exiting a liquor store after committing armed robbery.

As chief of police, Ray was responsible for many improvements made in the Belleville police department including new guns and radios for the officers, the expansion of the narcotics squad, the creation of the Silver Lake sub station and the addition of 15 police officers through State and Federal grants. Ray helped bring about the addition of over \$1 million in State and Federal funds to the department, the establishment of the community policing unit and training bureau, and the expansion of the internal affairs unit. He was additionally instrumental in the building of the new public safety complex.

Ray is the former vice president of the Essex County Police Chief's Association and a member of the New Jersey State Police Chief's Association, Belleville P.B.A. Local 28 where he served on the executive board. He also devoted his time as a member and officer of the Belleville Little League.

He is married to the former Marie Marinaro and is the father of four children, Raymond Kimble, Jr., Esq., Steve Kimble, Esq., C.P.A., Linda Conley, and Lisa Gabriele, and the grandfather of Raymond.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me, our colleagues, Ray's family, friends, and colleagues, the Township of Belleville and the members of the law enforcement community in recognizing Raymond R. Kimble's many years of dedication and invaluable contributions to the public safety of Belleville and its citizens.

THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INFORMATION ACT OF 1997 INTRODUCED

HON. JAMES A. TRAFICANT, JR.

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 21, 1997

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the Economic Development Information Act of 1997. This bill establishes and expands an online resource of Government-wide Economic Development Information in the Economic Development Administration of the U.S. Department of Commerce.

BACKGROUND: THE SUCCESS OF THE OFFICE OF ECONOMIC CONVERSION INFORMATION

Over the last decade, hundreds of defense bases have been realigned and closed and more than 100,000 defense civilians have lost their jobs. Pursuant to the 1995 round of base realignment and closure, additional bases are slated for closure in the next 4 years. To help communities and displaced workers adjust to this defense downsizing, Congress established the Office of Economic Conversion Information [OECI] in the Economic Development Administration [EDA] in November 1993.

The Office of Economic Conversion Information is an important part of the Federal Government's efforts to share information on defense adjustment and economic development. The OECI serves as a "one-stop shop" central clearinghouse for a wide range of users, ranging from individual displaced workers and economic developers to communities facing major base closures and businesses affected by defense downsizing. It helps these groups pick their way through the maze of Federal defense conversion and economic development programs in an easily usable format—a toll free 1-800 phone call, fax, or use of OECI's Internet site—and provides information on how others have responded to defense downsizing. With a database of more than 1,000 files, the OECI is not limited to sources of Federal funding and support. It also includes State and local program descriptions, case studies, guidance manuals, raw economic data, and various publications related to base reuse, worker placement programs, and the commercialization of defense technology. In addition, the OECI has created a new system, the PARCELS Military Base Property Marketing System, to further assist communities impacted by military base closures. This system helps communities create their own Internet home pages to describe and market base closure properties for private investment.

In its almost 4 years of operation, the OECI has responded to more than 143,000 queries. It currently serves approximately 5,000 customers each month. Moreover, the average OECI Internet user is not merely visiting the site, they are using it—the average user downloads 3 to 5 documents. Because of this success, EDA's OECI was awarded the American Economic Development Council's Arthur D. Little Technological Excellence Award in April 1996.

THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INFORMATION ACT OF 1997

The success of the OECI in assisting workers, communities, and businesses in adjusting to downsizing should not be limited to base reuse and defense conversion. The Economic Development Information Act of 1997 creates the Office of Economic Development Information in EDA—expanding the OECI to help all economically distressed communities.

Pursuant to this bill, the OEDI will serve as a central information clearinghouse on economic development, economic adjustment, disaster recovery, industrial retention, and defense conversion. In addition, the OEDI could link users to an expanded PARCELS system that would list all Government-owned properties that need economic redevelopment. The bill authorizes such sums as may be necessary to establish the OEDI.

I am hopeful that when the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure considers its bill to reauthorize the programs of the Economic Development Administration and Appalachian Regional Commission later this Congress, this bill will be a part of the chairman's mark.

When a community's top employer shuts down, it doesn't matter to the community or its workers whether that employer is a defense installation or a steel plant. It shouldn't matter to EDA and its information network either. The Office of Economic Development Information provides the resources to ensure that all of our Nation's economically distressed communities have the information necessary to help